—The Research Associateship should be for a period of six years in the first instance.

—The scale of remuneration of Research Associates should be revised alongwith revision of salaries of Central Government employees.

According to the information furnished by UGC, a Committee consisting of representatives of various funding agencies viz., Department of Science and Technology, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Indian Council of Social Sciences Research, considered the above demands. The Committee could not agree to the demands on the following grounds:—

—Associateship cannot be considered as regular employment and hence, the demand for payment of DA and CCA is not justified.

—Research experience is considered for selection to faculty positions and the period of Research Associateship cannot be counted as service rendered in an organised cadre;

—Research Associateship is awarded to an individual for pursuing post-doctoral research on an approved time-bound project and the tenure is coterminus with the project.

—Rules and Regulations of project funding agencies are already similar with minor variations according to the needs of the concerned organisation.

—Maximum tenure under the UGC Research Associateship should be limited to a total period of five years. However, at the time of extension of Research Associateship for two years beyond three years, UGC may consider upgradation of Associateship to the next higher slab, if the work is found to be good.

पाठ्य पुस्तकों में स्वतंत्रता सेनानियों के नाम

2573. **कुमारी आलिया :** क्या **मानव संसाधन विकास** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि विद्यालयों में लगी कुछ पाठ्य पुस्तकों में से सुविख्यात स्वतंत्रता सेनानियों के नाम हटा दिए गए हैं ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ; और

(ग) नई पीढ़ी को स्वतंत्रता सेनानियों के योगदान और उनके इतिहास से अवगत कराने के लिए क्या नए परिवर्तन किए जाने और कदम उठाए जाने की संभावना है ?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री (**श्री अर्जुन सिंह**) : (क) जी, नहीं ।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

(ग) एन०सी०ई०आर०टी० द्वारा राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति, 1986 के आधार पर राष्ट्रीय पाठ्यचर्या ढांचा विकसित किया गया जिसमें कोर पाठ्यचर्या विषय के रूप में स्वतंत्रता आंदोलन के इतिहास के अध्ययन को शामिल किया गया है जिसमें स्कूली पाठ्य-पुस्तकों में स्वतंत्रता आंदोलन के इतिहास को उपयुक्त स्थान दिया गया है ।

Mid-day meal scheme

2574. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce "National Mid-Day Meal Scheme" for elementary schools children through-out the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) There is at present no concrete proposal to implement a Mid-day Meal Programme for elementary school children throughout the country.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Mathematics in Kendriya Vidyalayas and Government Schools

2575. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether study of mathematics has been made compulsory in Kendriya Vidyalayas and Government Schools in Delhi at Secondary level;

(b) if so, the details therefor;

(c) whether teaching of Mathematics is optional at Secondary level in some schools of Delhi;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government are aware that text of Mathematics is very difficult;

(f) whether Government are also aware that private tutors are charging as high as Rs. 600/- for coaching of Mathematics;

(g) whether Government propose to make study of Mathematics optional at Secondary level; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The study of Mathematics is compulsory for all schools affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education, including Government Schools in Delhi and Kendriya Vidyalayas.

(c) and (d) It is not generally optional. However Patrachar Vidyalaya candidates are allowed to offer Home Science/Commerce in place of Mathematics. Likewise, Blind, Deaf and Dumb candidates also have the facility to offer an alternative subject in lieu of Mathematics in view of their special needs.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Government does not have any such data as private tution would be a matter of voluntary private contract.

(g) No, change is contemplated in the position stated in reply to parts (c) and (d) above.

(h) Mathematics is an important component of general education.

Health nutrition and educational inputs for children

2576. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the UNICEF report titled "State of the World's Children Report" recommending that Indian Government should provide basic health nutrition and educational inputs to the children; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.